Employment of retired Government Officials in Regulatory Authorities

1001. SHRI R.R GOENKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the Regulatory Authorities, created by Government, are manned by retired Government officials;

(b) the details of Regulatory Authorities and the retired Government officials employed with them;

(c) whether it is also a fact that employment of retired Government officials on these Regulatory Authorities, which are expected to be independent, makes them merely an arm of Government; and

(d) the details of the mechanism provided or internal stipulation made, while appointing retired Government officials to these Authorities, to ensure objectivity in deliberations of the Authority to lend credibility to their recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) Regulatory Authorities are created as provided in the relevant Acts. The details of appointment to various regulatory authorities are maintained by the concerned administrative Ministries and such details are not centrally maintained. The appointments are made in accordance with the provisions contained in relevant Acts.

Right to Information Bill

† 1002. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had brought a Bill in the recent past in the Parliament with regard to provide right to information to the common man of the country;

(b) if so, when this Bill was presented in the House; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the reasons for delay in materialising it into a law by passing it in the House and by when it is likely to take the shape of law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) With a view to introducing greater transparency and openness in the functioning of Government and public bodies, Government had introduced the "Freedom of Information Bill, 2000" in the Lok Sabha on 25th July, 2000.The Bill, as introduced in the Lok Sabha and pending therein, was referred to the Department-related Parlimentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs for examination and report thereon. The Standing Committee presented its Report to both the Houses of Parliament on 25th July, 2001 .The recommendations made by the Committee in its Report have been examined and efforts are being made to bring up the Bill for consideration of the House during the ongoing Winter Session, 2002 of Parliament.

Officers Indicated by CBI

1003.SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of the officers, in the administrative services, found guilty in the raids conducted by the C.B.I, has been increasing during the last three years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the officers suspended, being found guilty after the raids, have already been reinstated in Government service even before their acquittal from the courts; and

(c) if so, the number of such officers for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The raids conducted by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) aim at collecting evidence in an enquiry/investigation. An officer cannot be pronounced guilty only because of a raid by the CBI and the matter is decided as per the rules by the Court/Disciplinary Authority. However, the CBI searched the premises of following number of officers belonging to All India & other Central/Allied Services during the last three years;